Youth in the Labour Force

2012

Highlights

For the purpose of this profile, youth are defined as persons aged 15 to 24 years.

Alberta Youth Population Statistics

- Among the provinces, Alberta had the fourth highest proportion of youth in its working age population at 16.5%, after Manitoba at 17.1%, Saskatchewan at 16.8%, and Prince Edward Island at 16.6%.
- The Alberta youth population grew by 10.5% between 2002 and 2012.

Alberta Youth Labour Force Statistics

- Alberta youth had the lowest unemployment rate in the country at 8.9%.
- Alberta youth had the third highest participation rate in Canada at 68.4%, after Manitoba's rate of 69.1% and Saskatchewan's rate of 69.0%.
- Alberta's youth employment rate of 62.3% was the second highest among the provinces, after Saskatchewan's 62.4%.

Alberta Youth Employment by Industry

- The Services-Producing sector in Alberta comprised 76.0% of all youth employment.
- In 2012, Alberta youth accounted for 37.2% of those employed in the Accommodation and Food Services industry.

Alberta Youth Employment by Educational Level

- 74.8% of employed youth had obtained a high school graduation, a post-secondary certificate or diploma, a university degree, or had some post-secondary education.
- Of employed youth, 76.5% of female and 73.1% of male had high school graduation or higher.

Alberta Full-time and Part-time Employment of Youth

- Youth made up 14.7% of all Alberta employment in 2012.
- 65.4% of youth were employed in full-time positions.
- Under half, or 43.4% of all employed female youth worked part-time.

Alberta Youth Wages and Salaries

- The average hourly wage paid to youth was $10.12 less than the average hourly wage of $26.70 paid to all Albertans.
- The average hourly wage paid to male youth was higher at all levels of education attained than the wage paid to female youth.

Alberta Youth Population Statistics

Statistics Canada defines youth as those people between the age of 15 and 24 years.[1]

In Canada, 15.7% of the working age population in 2012 was youth. The proportion of youths in the working age population ranged from 13.9% to 17.1% of the total working age population in the ten provinces. (Figure 1) Alberta had the fourth highest proportion of youth in the working age population, at 16.5%, behind Manitoba's 17.1%, Saskatchewan's 16.8%, and Prince Edward Island's 16.6%. Alberta's percentage of youth in the working age population exceeded the national percentage by 0.8 percentage point.

Figure 1

Number and Per cent of Youth, Canada and Provinces, 2012

	Working Age Population (15+ years)	Youth (15-24 years)	% Youth
Canada	28,314,700	4,457,100	15.7%
Newfoundland and Labrador	427,700	59,500	13.9%
Prince Edward Island	120,500	20,000	16.6%
Nova Scotia	780,300	118,000	15.1%
New Brunswick	620,400	90,300	14.6%
Quebec	6,637,400	982,800	14.8%
Ontario	11,069,700	1,788,600	16.2%
Manitoba	963,100	164,900	17.1%
Saskatchewan	811,000	136,500	16.8%
Alberta	3,069,900	506,800	16.5%
British Columbia	3,814,700	589,700	15.5%

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

Alberta's youth population grew by 10.5%, or 48,200, between 2002 and 2012. (Figure 2) This growth rate was 3.4 percentage points higher than the growth rate for Canada's youth, but was 15.9 percentage points lower than the growth rate of Alberta's working age population over the same period.

Figure 2

Growth of Youth and Working Age Population, 2002 and 2012

	2002	2012	Growth	% Growth
Canadians	24,785,900	28,314,700	3,528,800	14.2%
Youth in Canada	4,162,700	4,457,100	294,400	7.1%
Albertans	2,428,300	3,069,900	641,600	26.4%
Youth in Alberta	458,600	506,800	48,200	10.5%

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

[1] Guide to the Labour Force Survey, Statistics Canada – Catalogue no. 71-543-GIE. Or visit: http://www.statcan.gc.ca/bsolc/olc-cel/olc-cel?catno=71-543-GIE&lang=eng

Alberta Youth Labour Force Statistics

Alberta's youth made up 15.4% of the labour force and 14.7% of those employed in 2012. (Figure 3)

In 2012, youth accounted for less than a third, or 29.8%, of the unemployed in Alberta. Alberta's youths' unemployment rate was 8.9%, down from 10.7% in 2011, and was 4.3 percentage points higher than the 2012 unemployment rate for all Albertans.

Alberta youth participation and employment rates were lower than those for Albertans by 5.0 and 7.7 percentage points, respectively.

Figure 3

Alberta Youth Labour Force Statistics, 2012

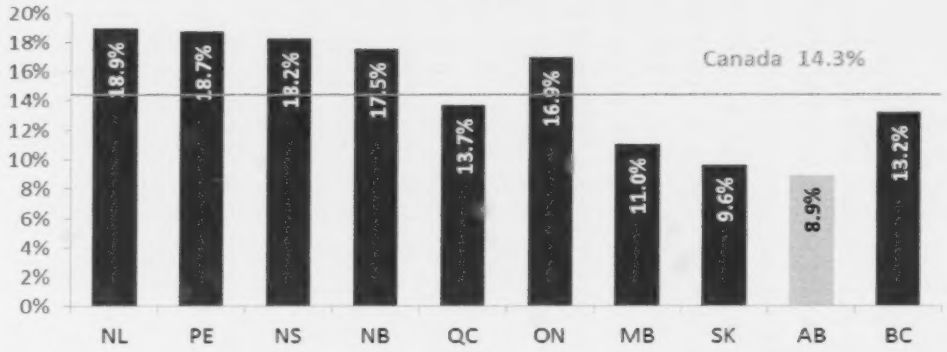
	Youth (15-24 years)	Albertans (15+ years)	% of Albertans (15-24 years)
Working Age Population	506,800	3,069,900	16.5%
Labour Force	346,400	2,253,500	15.4%
Employment	315,500	2,149,600	14.7%
Unemployment	30,900	103,800	29.8%
Unemployment Rate	8.9%	4.6%	
Participation Rate	68.4%	73.4%	
Employment Rate	62.3%	70.0%	

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

Alberta's youth unemployment rate of 8.9% was the lowest among the ten provinces, and was 5.4 percentage points lower than the Canadian youth average of 14.3%. (Figure 4)

Figure 4

Youth Unemployment Rate in Canada by Province, 2012

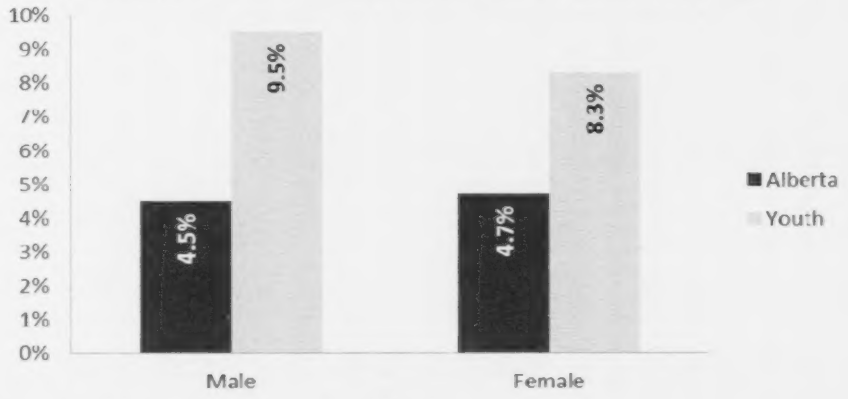


Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

Overall, female youths had lower unemployment rates than male youths in 2012. (Figure 5) The unemployment rate for male youth was higher than that for female youth by 1.2 percentage points. The unemployment rate for Alberta males was 0.2 percentage points lower than for Alberta females.

Figure 5

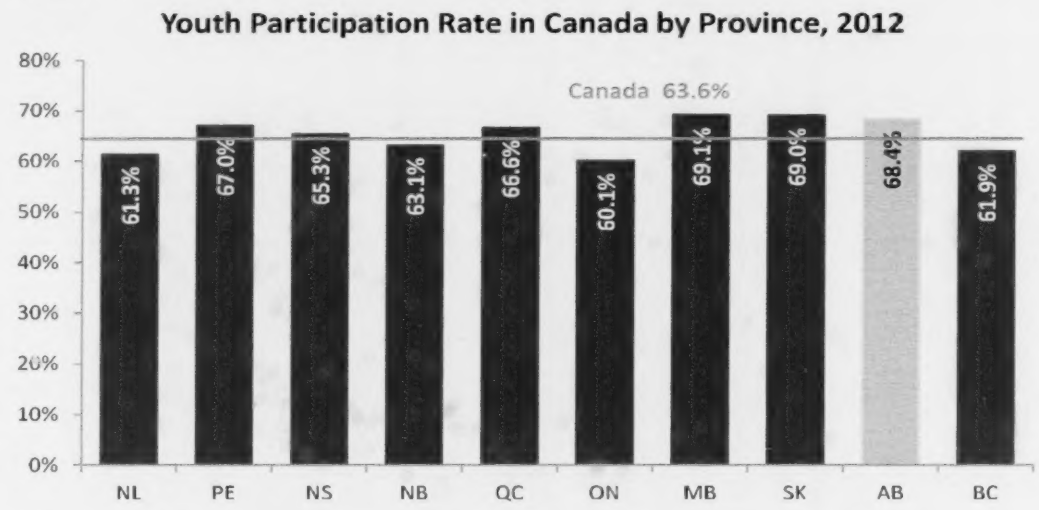
Alberta Youth Unemployment Rate by Gender, 2012



Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

In 2012, Alberta's youth participation rate of 68.4% was the third highest among the provinces, and was 4.8 percentage points higher than the Canadian youth average of 63.6%. (Figure 6)

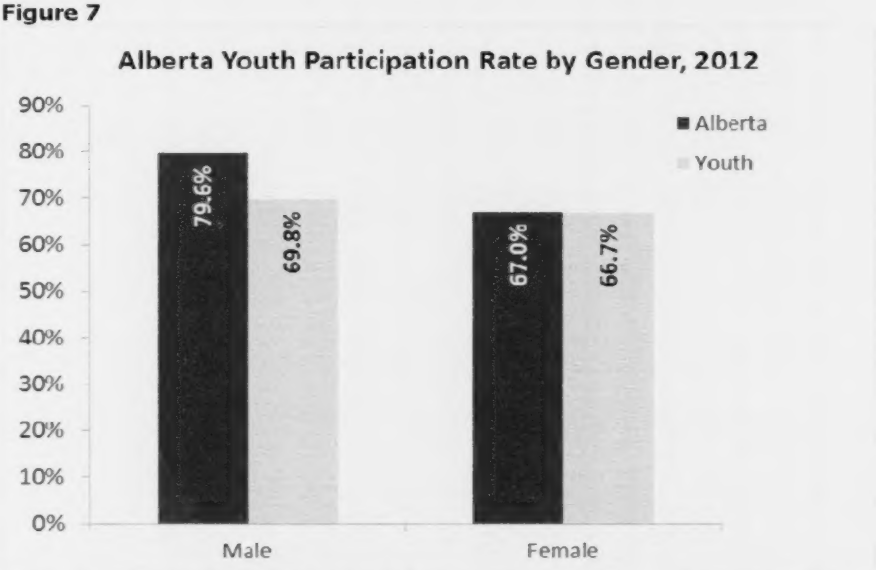
Figure 6



Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

The participation rate for Alberta's female youth was 66.7%, which was 0.3 percentage point lower than the average for Alberta's working age female population and 3.1 percentage points lower than the participation rate for male youth. (Figure 7)

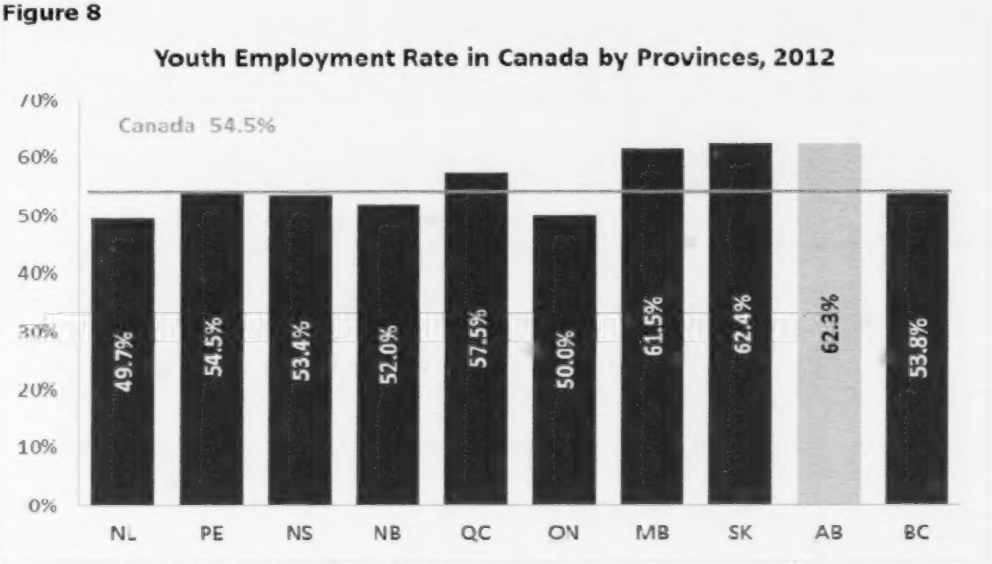
Figure 7



Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

Alberta's youth employment rate of 62.3% was the second highest among the provinces, behind Saskatchewan's rate of 62.4%. (Figure 8) Alberta's rate was 7.8 percentage points above the average Canadian rate in 2012.

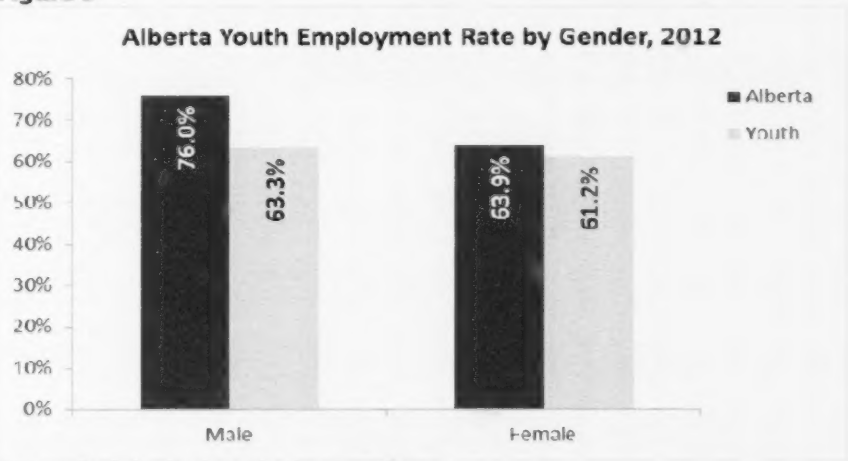
Figure 8



Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

In 2012, the employment rate for male youth in Alberta was 2.1 percentage points higher than the rate for female youth and 12.7 percentage points lower than the rate for Alberta males. (Figure 9)

Figure 9



Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

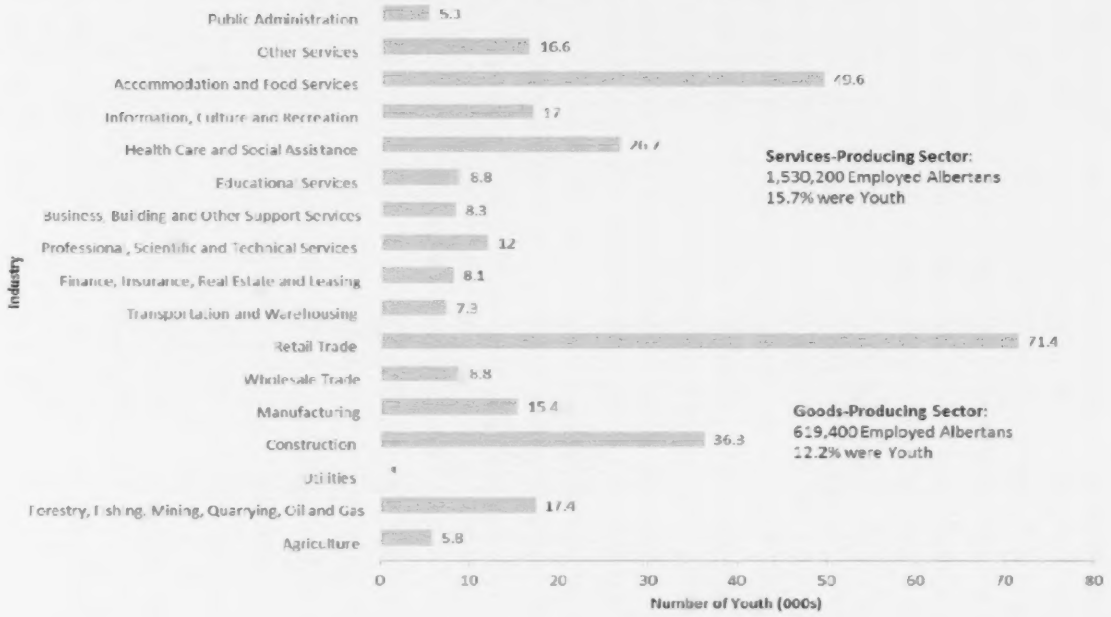
Alberta Youth Employment by Industry

In 2012, there were 619,400 Albertans employed in the Goods-Producing Sector and 12.2% were youth. (Figure 10) In the Services-Producing Sector, 1,530,200 Albertans were employed, of which 15.7% were youth.

Of employed Alberta youth, 76.0% worked in the Services-Producing Sector. The three industries that employed the largest number of youth were Retail Trade, 71,400; Accommodation and Food Services, 49,600; and Construction, 36,300.

Figure 10

Alberta Youth Employment by Industry, 2012



*Insufficient data
Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

In 2012, 81.7% of the youth employed in the Alberta Goods-Producing Sector were male. (Figure 11) Of all employed Alberta male youth, 62.5% were employed in the Services-Producing Sector, and 19.4% were in the Construction industry.

Female youth comprised 57.1% of all youth employed in the Services-Producing Sector in 2012. Of female youth employed in that sector, 66.3% of them worked in three industries: Accommodation and Food Services, Retail Trade, and Health Care and Social Assistance.

Figure 11

Alberta Youth Employment by Industry and Gender, 2012

Industry	Number Employed		Proportion by Gender	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Goods-Producing Sector	**61,800**	**13,800**	**81.7%**	**18.3%**
Construction	31,900	4,400	87.9%	12.1%
Forestry, Fishing, Mining, Quarrying, Oil and Gas	13,500	3,900	77.6%	22.4%
Manufacturing	11,700	3,700	76.0%	24.0%
Utilities	*	*	*	*
Agriculture	4,100	1,600	71.9%	28.1%
Services-Producing Sector	**102,900**	**137,000**	**42.9%**	**57.1%**
Wholesale Trade	6,500	2,200	74.7%	25.3%
Retail Trade	33,500	37,900	46.9%	53.1%
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate and Leasing	2,500	5,700	30.5%	69.5%
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	6,400	5,600	53.3%	46.7%
Business, Building and Other Support Services	4,600	3,700	55.4%	44.6%
Educational Services	2,500	6,300	28.4%	71.6%
Health Care and Social Assistance	4,600	22,100	17.2%	82.8%
Information, Culture and Recreation	8,400	8,600	49.4%	50.6%
Accommodation and Food Services	18,900	30,800	38.0%	62.0%
Other Services	7,900	8,700	47.6%	52.4%
Public Administration	1,900	3,400	35.8%	64.2%

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey
* Insufficient data

Alberta Youth Employment by Educational Level

In 2012, 25.2% of employed youths had less than high school education compared to 11.6% of employed Albertans, and 35.0% of youths were high school graduates compared to 24.1% of Albertans. (Figure 12)

Figure 12

Alberta Youth Employment by Education Level, 2012

Educational Attainment	Albertans (15+ years)	Youth (15 to 24 years)
Less than high school	11.6%	25.2%
High school graduate	24.1%	35.0%
Some post-secondary	6.4%	15.5%
Post-secondary certificate or diploma	34.9%	17.5%
University degree	23.0%	6.7%
Total	**100%**	**100%**

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

Of employed youths with a university degree, 58.0% were females and 42.0% were males. (Figure 13) For employed youths with high school graduation, 54.1% were males and 45.9% were females.

Figure 13

Youth Employment by Education Level and Gender, 2012

Educational Attainment	Youth (15-24 years)	Male (%)	Female (%)
Less than high school*	79,600	55.5%	44.3%
High school graduate	110,300	54.1%	45.9%
Some post-secondary	49,000	45.9%	54.1%
Post-secondary certificate or diploma	55,300	53.0%	47.0%
University degree	21,200	42.0%	58.0%

*may not add up to 100% due to rounding
Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

Alberta Full-time and Part-time Employment of Youth

The proportion of youth employed in part-time positions was 34.6%, more than double the proportion for Albertans, at 15.9%. (Figure 14) The proportion of female youth in part-time employment was 43.4%, which was 16.9 percentage points higher than the proportion for male youth.

Figure 14

Full-time and Part-time Employment by Gender, 2012

	Youth (15 to 24 years)		Albertans (15+ years)	
	Employed	% of total	Employed	% of total
Both Genders	315,500	100.0%	2,149,600	100.0%
Full-Time	206,400	65.4%	1,800,000	83.7%
Part-Time	109,100	34.6%	349,600	16.3%
Male	164,700	100.0%	1,186,300	100.0%
Full-Time	121,000	73.5%	1,085,100	91.5%
Part-Time	43,700	26.5%	101,200	8.5%
Female	150,800	100.0%	963,300	100.0%
Full-Time	85,400	56.6%	714,900	74.2%
Part-Time	65,400	43.4%	248,400	25.8%

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

Alberta Youth Wages

Overall, youth earned less per hour than Albertans at each level of education. (Figure 15) The average hourly wage paid to youth at all levels of education was $10.12 less than the average hourly wage that Albertans earned in 2012.

Figure 15

Average Hourly Wages by Educational Level, 2012

Educational Level	Albertans	Youths
All Education	**$26.70**	**$16.58**
Less than high school	$19.49	$13.28
High school graduate	$22.63	$16.24
Some post-secondary education	$21.43	$16.12
Post-secondary certificate or diploma	$28.08	$20.67
University degree	$34.04	$21.02

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

The average hourly wage paid to male youth was higher at all levels of education than the wage paid to female youth in 2012. (Figure 16)

Figure 16

Average Hourly Wages of Alberta Youth by Education and Gender, 2012

Educational Level	Youth	Male	Female
All Education	**$16.58**	**$18.14**	**$14.92**
Less than high school	$13.28	$14.62	$11.65
High school graduate	$16.24	$17.67	$14.62
Some post-secondary education	$16.12	$17.64	$14.85
Post-secondary certificate or diploma	$20.67	$23.05	$18.06
University degree	$21.02	$23.91	$19.03

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

Appendix

All definitions come from the Guide to the Labour Force Survey 2012.pdf, Statistics Canada – Catalogue no. 71-543-G.

Employment Rate: The number of persons employed expressed as a percentage of working age population (WAP).

Industry: The general nature of the business carried out by the employer for whom the respondent works (main job only).

Labour Force: The labour force is composed of the portion of the WAP who, during the reference week, were employed or unemployed. The reference week is defined as the week containing the 15th day of the month in which information is collected for the Labour Force Survey.

Occupation: The kind of work persons 15+ years were doing during the reference week, as determined by the kind of work reported and the description of the most important duties of the job. If the individual did not have a job during the reference week, the data relates to the previous job, if that job was held in the past year.

Participation Rate: The total labour force expressed as a percentage of the WAP. This measure represents the proportion of the WAP that is either employed or actively seeking employment.

Working Age Population: Those persons 15+ years except persons living on Indian reserves, inmates of institutions, and full-time members of the Canadian Armed Forces.

Youth: Statistics Canada defines youth as those people between the ages of 15 and 24 years.